

April 20, 2010

## **Gov. Perdue Releases FY 10-11 Budget Proposal**

### ***Features Investments in Jobs, Education, Ethics Reform and Safe Communities, While Cutting Almost \$1 Billion in Spending***

Gov. Bev Perdue today released her proposed state budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Released earlier than administrations in past years, Perdue's budget makes critical investments in four key areas: jobs and the economy, education, setting government straight and safer communities. It cuts nearly \$1 billion in spending and reallocates some \$250 million to programs that will reform state government and continue to move the state forward through an economic recovery.

Spending cuts focused on programs and areas that were proven to be unproductive, wasteful or in need of greater efficiencies. Investments in technology to ferret out fraud, waste and abuse were also highlighted.

Highlights of the budget proposal include:

#### **JobsNOW**

- \$15 million for a "Back to Work" Incentive Fund that will provide a direct rebate to small businesses that hire long-term unemployed workers.
- \$250 per person credit for small businesses that provide health insurance to their employees.
- \$22 million to establish the North Carolina Mobility Fund that will be used to address critical congestion bottlenecks and to improve our logistics capabilities.

#### **Career and College – Ready, Set, Go!**

- Protects class sizes for K-3, while giving local school systems the power to manage spending cuts.
- \$39 million to provide teachers with hand-held diagnostic assessment devices in grades K-3 and grade 5.
- Fully funds enrollment growth and expands need-based financial aid at the university and community college levels.

#### **Setting Government Straight**

- Additional funding for the State Ethics Commission to ensure good government practices including an online personal financial interest disclosure system.